

MINERS QUIET WORK

Differences Between Operators and Miners Very Slight—Changes in General Officers of Miners' Organization Cause of Temporary Suspension of Work—Believed That a Satisfactory Wage Scale Will Be Agreed to.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 31.—Two hundred and fifty thousand picks dropped from the hands of as many bituminous coal miners of the United States this evening, not to be used again until a wage settlement has been reached and a scale adopted between the members of the United Mine Workers of America and the coal operators of the various fields. Tomorrow morning 250,000 will be idle.

The situation, however, does not indicate prolonged strike. An open winter and industrial depression have left a large stock of coal on hand and the differences between miners and operators are very slight. It is practically agreed that the present wage scale will be continued, but some politics in connection with the change tonight in the national officers of the miners' organization and local differences between operators and miners have resulted in temporary suspension from work until a new wage scale is agreed to either by districts or individual mines.

Until two years ago the bituminous mining wage of the country was based upon the agreement reached in the central competitive field, consisting of Illinois, Ohio, Indiana and Western Pennsylvania, and considered as a unit. This unit system was broken two years ago when President John Mitchell signed a scale with Pittsburgh operators who agreed to pay the scale demanded after operators of the other three states had refused and the miners won their fight. Operators signed the scale individually throughout the country.

Since that time the miners have tried to get back the unit rule or interstate agreement, but operators of Western Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois, after negotiations lasting all the past winter, have refused to meet in interstate convention with the miners. As a last resort President Mitchell called the miners in national convention and district settlements were authorized with the present wage scale as a minimum. Failing to agree by districts, miners were authorized to sign the present scale with operators individually.

Vice-president Lewis, who will succeed President Mitchell tomorrow, is endeavoring to revive the interstate unit rule. In the meantime joint district meetings are being held in the various states.

Central Pennsylvania and the block coal district of Indiana (Clay county) are the only two districts that have signed up. Indiana operators and miners in session at Terre Haute are adjusting their small differences and have decided to continue at work pending a settlement. There will be no strike in this state. The Illinois district meeting at Springfield has not reached an agreement, but the returns between the opposition interests are friendly. Western Pennsylvania has not reached an agreement and the miners will close down, throwing out of work 30,000 men. Ohio miners will close also, as no agreement has been reached. The southwest district, consisting of Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas, are holding its meeting at Kansas City and it is said the miners will be idle for a time. Thirty-five thousand men are affected. The miners of the Kanawha field in West Virginia are holding their joint meeting at Huntington, and while no agreement has been reached one is expected.

The New River, Pocahontas and Fairmont fields are non-union and are not affected. West Virginia and Kentucky miners and operators will continue operations, it is believed, pending a settlement. President-elect Lewis said tonight he would make no move for several days. He wishes negotiations now in progress in the various districts to reach some kind of conclusion before he begins to work out his plans. He is still in the hope of reinstating the joint relations between the operators of Indiana, Ohio, Western Pennsylvania and Illinois, and the indications are that he will call an interstate joint conference within the next two weeks. He will not convene the new national executive board for at least a week. He was not ready today to announce his appointments. The office of national statistician will be abolished, and it is understood that Samuel Sexton is to be retired as editor of the "United Mine Workers."

Retiring President Mitchell, President-elect Lewis and W. B. Wilson, retiring secretary-treasurer, were tendered a banquet tonight by the members of the miners international executive board.

Bay City, Mich., March 31.—The joint convention of Michigan operators and miners today agreed that the general scale of wages of last year shall continue in effect until March 31, 1909. The scale was taken up clause by clause, and all the principal points agreed upon.

The others will be referred to the joint scale committee for settlement. Pending the promulgation of the full scale, the miners will continue at work, according to the agreement reached yesterday.

Des Moines, Iowa, March 31.—Des Moines coal mine in the state of Iowa, will close tonight. Not one of the thirty or thirty-five mines in the state will be worked Wednesday.

The shut-down pending the settlement between the operators and miners will last at least thirty days. For the past month the mining companies and large consumers of the state have been storing up coal in preparation for the shut down.

Nashville, Tenn., March 31.—The situation in the coal fields of Tennessee is quiet and relations be-

tween operators and miners are entirely harmonious. The miners are worked on "open shop" plan and the wage scale is said to be satisfactory. John P. Williams, President of the Bon Air Coal and Iron company said tonight that he anticipated no friction in the Tennessee district, that conditions were eminently satisfactory and that the men were entirely satisfied and cheerful.

Pittsburg, March 31.—Committees representing operators and miners having failed to agree at a joint wage conference here today the bituminous coal mines of Western Pennsylvania closed down tonight for an indefinite period—until a working agreement can be reached. This enforces idleness upon about 30,000 members of the miners union and about 10,000 unorganized employees of the mines of this territory. The question of wages is not directly involved, for the miners are asking no increase in compensation for this year and the operators are not asking them to accept a reduction. The most serious difference before the joint committee at today's session was the period to be covered by the wage agreement adopted.

The operators want a settlement for a period of not less than two years. The miners are not willing to "accept last year's terms for more than one year, hoping for conditions at the end of the next scale year that will justify them in demanding higher wages and other concessions.

Springfield, Ill., March 31.—The miners operators of the state today decided to close the coal mines of the state April 1st, the mines to remain inactive until the new agreement between the miners and operators has been completed.

The operators have been preparing for the shut down and all say they have enough coal on hand to take care of their trade and to retain the price at its present figure.

Crafton, W. Va., March 31.—As the result of a disagreement over the wage scale between operators and miners of the Merchants Coal Co. of Tunnelton, 20 miles east of here, 400 men are idle.

Last week the operators posted notices of a 10 per cent. cut in wages after April 1. Immediately the miners decided to resist the reduction and the mine has been closed down.

Fort Worth, Tex., March 31.—There will be no strike of the miners and no suspension of coal mine operations in Texas for at least ten days. Men representing the miners and operators agreed at a meeting today that work should continue until 11, pending a conference here which both sides hope will result in an amicable settlement of the wage scale question.

NO TRUTH IN CHARGES.

President of Boat Company Makes Strong Denial of Allegations of Lilley.

Washington, March 31.—Isaac L. Rice, president of the Electric Boat Company, today made a sweeping denial of the charges preferred by Representative George L. Lilley, of Connecticut, before the special committee of the house that is investigating those charges. He denounced several of the statements as malicious lies and said the others were too absurd to answer.

He testified that he had been approached by agents of the Lake Boat Company with propositions for the Electric Boat Company to buy out the Lake Company, the negotiations to be contingent upon the stopping of the investigation. Those who approached Mr. Rice, according to his testimony were U. Grant Brown and Charles R. Filat, both of New York, but Mr. Rice said he did not know beyond Mr. Brown's statement that the latter was an agent of the Lake company. When asked how the present investigation was to be stopped, Mr. Rice said that Mr. Brown said it could be stopped by United States Senator Bulkeley, of Connecticut.

The other two witnesses of the day were John P. Kellogg, assistant state's attorney for Connecticut, and William D. Gordon, of Midland, Mich., both attorneys for the Electric Boat Company. They denied knowledge of any wrongful influence being used by the Electric Boat Company to secure legislation in congress.

MADE ADVERSE REPORT.

Committee Not in Favor of Purchase Exposition Grounds and Buildings.

Washington, March 31.—The house committee on naval affairs today voted to report adversely the bill to authorize the purchase of the Jamestown exposition grounds and buildings by the government to be used as a naval training and coaling station. The committee decided that the grounds would not be entirely suitable for the purposes in view, that the exposition buildings are of a character so temporary that large expenditures would be necessary to fit them for training station purposes; that there is not enough water at Jamestown, and that good facilities for coaling are afforded at Norfolk.

The grounds, as offered to the government, comprise 330 acres, and the purchase price, inclusive of improvements, was named as \$960,000, plus the cancellation of the exposition company's debt of nearly one million dollars to the United States.

REDUCED FORCE.

Eight Hundred Men Laid Off by N. & W. Railroad.

Roanoke, Va., March 31.—Eight hundred men were discharged from the Roanoke's shops of the N. & W. railroad today. The shops under ordinary conditions employ 2,000 men. A notice was posted that in the future that these shops will work full time with the reduced force. For the three months only half time has been made. Every department in the shops is affected by the cut.

CASTORIA.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Beware of cheap imitations.
Signature of *Wm. D. Gordon*

A CRITICAL STAGE

Reviews Difficulties Encountered by American Claimants Against Venezuelan Government—Arbitration Refused and Result Will Probably Be Use of Force—Matter in Hands of Foreign Relations Committee.

Washington, D. C., March 31.—The long expected correspondence between America and Venezuela respecting pending American claims against the latter country was submitted to the senate today and is almost certain to create a profound impression. It will be difficult to digest the vast mass of material which Secretary Root has placed before congress, but even a cursory inspection of the documents make it evident that the negotiations have reached a critical phase.

The president's realization of the fact is shown by his transmission of the matter to the senate without any comment, regarding the correspondence and especially Secretary Root's strong presentation of the American case as sufficient to instantly enlist the attention of congress.

All the correspondence and documents were referred to the senate committee on foreign relations.

Those members of the committee who have already familiarized themselves with the situation have arranged tentatively a program which consists of three propositions as follows:

Place a prohibition tariff on Venezuelan coffee, the exports of which constituted 45 per cent of the entire Venezuelan foreign trade, and 90 per cent of the coffee is taken by the United States.

Exclude all importations of asphalt from Lake Bermudez, the product of which has been taken almost entirely by the United States.

Authorize the president to exercise the general power invested in him to take whatever steps he may consider necessary to treat with Venezuela in the future.

In a letter to Minister Russell on February 28, 1907, Secretary Root reviewed the difficulties encountered by the various American claimants and instructed Mr. Russell to demand remedy and redress. The letter concluded with this statement:

"You are instructed to bring these several causes of complaint to the immediate and serious attention of the Venezuelan government and to insist that the government to which you are credited shall give to each and every demand hereinafter immediate consideration."

In issuing general instructions to the American minister Secretary Root said: "You will call the attention of the government of Venezuela to the fact that notwithstanding the long and unbroken friendship manifested by the United States for Venezuela; notwithstanding the repeated occasions upon which the United States has intervened as a friend in need to relieve Venezuela from disagreeable and dangerous complications with other powers; notwithstanding the patience and consideration which has always characterized the action of this government towards Venezuela; notwithstanding the fact that the government of Venezuela has within the past few years practically confiscated or destroyed all the substantial property interests of Americans in that country. This has been done sometimes in accordance with the forms of laws and contrary to the spirit of the law, sometimes within even form of law by one device or another with the action of the government apparently always hostile to American interests until of the many millions of dollars invested by American citizens in that country practically nothing remains.

The memorandum compiled by Solicitor Scott, of the state department, gives exhaustively the facts and law in each of the subjects of dispute between the American and Venezuelan governments. This memorandum, which occupies nearly two hundred printed pages, forms a part of the voluminous record of the cases which Secretary Root transmitted to the senate in response to a resolution of Senator Lodge.

The muddle of concession on concession, revocation on revocation, mining titles, wild land titles, and titles under changing constitutions and varying laws, intrigue, revolution, imprisonment and death, woven and interwoven in the case of the claim against Venezuela of the New York and Bermudez company, forms the most interesting chapter of the long story.

The company is now completely dispossessed of what is regarded as the largest asphalt lake in the world and has been condemned by Venezuelan courts to pay that government a fine of \$5,000,000 for inciting revolution. Though repeatedly requested, Venezuela has refused to arbitrate this case and it is the opinion of the solicitor that it is inadvisable to resubmit the claim through the ordinary channels. "An impasse has been reached in this case," he says, "which cannot be resolved by ordinary peaceful methods."

The troubles of this company seem to have begun from the moment Horatio R. Hamilton, an American, obtained a twenty-five year concession to exploit the national resources of the state of Bermudez September 15, 1883. The first mistake seems to have been the misplacing of a decimal point by a surveyor. This mistake located the asphalt lake 180 meters above the sea, instead of 1.80 meters. This mistake resulted in the concession and subsequent titles being successfully disputed in the Venezuelan courts; other claims were established and then revoked. The Venezuelan government next forcibly seized the property and placed it in the hands of a receiver who had formerly managed the company's interests and later became its enemy. The most recent action of that government was to declare the receivership ended, the property confiscated, and the company fined in the amount stated. It is understood not to be the attitude of the state department to in any manner defend this company

against the charges brought against it. The position in this as in other cases, it is stated to be that disputes have arisen between the Venezuelan government and American citizens of sufficient gravity to warrant diplomatic interference by this government that this government has done no more than propose that all of the question be submitted to the arbitration of an impartial tribunal before which the rights and wrongs of both parties can be fully presented and considered. This the Venezuelan government flatly refuses to do, at which point procedure by diplomacy seems to end.

AFTER FOREIGN TRUST.

Resolution Introduced in Senate to Investigate United Fruit Company.

Washington, March 31.—The question whether an American corporation exercising the functions of a trust can be permitted to use a foreign government to assist it in maintaining a monopoly will be investigated if a resolution offered in the senate today by Senator Johnston, of Alabama, is adopted.

The resolution provides for an investigation by the department of commerce and labor into the character of the United Fruit Company, which is engaged in handling tropical fruits and a determination as to whether its operations are in restraint of trade.

Mr. Johnston said that an Alabama corporation attempted to develop a banana plantation in Central America and when the first crop was ready for shipment the United Fruit Company procured from Costa Rica a right to seize the fruit of the company in order to prevent the exportation of a single banana. Suit against the United Fruit Company was brought in New York and the court declared that although the seizure might have been unlawful the government of Costa Rica had taken possession of the fruit and no court of the United States could render a decision against a sovereign power.

"The question is," said Mr. Johnston, "whether a trust can shield itself behind the shadow of some little republic and defy this government and the purpose of this resolution is to have the committee on interstate commerce see whether a trust in this country can use the agency of a foreign government to protect itself in its nefarious operations."

The resolution was referred to the committee on interstate commerce.

ARMENIANS FOR SETTLERS

To be Brought Into Colonies of C. T. D. Co.

Prominent Armenian Now Investigating the Various Colonies—Thirty New Settlers Arrived During March and More Than One Hundred Expected for April.

The Carolina Trucking Development Co. is to be congratulated on the progress made recently, and especially on the movement of new people into this section during the last month and on the prospects in sight for April. Exactly eighty new settlers arrived and were located at the various colonies during March, and the company estimates that the number of arrivals during April will run well over the hundred mark.

The Trucking Development Co. is now being quite extensively advertised throughout the United States and abroad, and much assistance to the growth of the colonies is anticipated as a result of favorable reports made by government and state officials who have recently visited here.

A government official who has recently been here has recommended obtaining some of the best grade of Armenians for settlers, stating that the better class of this nationality make the finest farmers and citizens now coming into the United States. The company is, therefore, preparing to make a test of these people, and with this end in view now has a prominent Armenian here looking over the colonies. This gentleman, if satisfied with the prospects, will be able to introduce a large number of the most desirable class of his race, he having already established the nucleus of a very successful colony in another section of the state. He comes well recommended by the state immigration department at Raleigh.

The great work of development of this section undertaken and fostered by the Carolina Trucking Development Company makes its plans of great public interest and the company should be given every encouragement by citizens of Wilmington and all interested in the future of the surrounding territory.

J. H. WINDER IN CHARLOTTE.

President of Great Clinchfield Coal Corporation—Making Inspection Tour of This Territory—May Visit Wilmington and Southport.

Concerning the recent visit of President J. H. Winder, of the Clinchfield Coal Corporation, to Charlotte, the Observer of yesterday says:

"President John H. Winder, of the Clinchfield Coal Corporation, and one of the leading financiers behind the construction of the magnificent South & Western, now known as the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio Railway, spent last night in the city on a general inspection tour of this territory, leaving this morning at 5 o'clock on a special train bearing him down the Seaboard. The visit of Mr. Winder to Charlotte is believed to be significant, although he refrained last night from making public some of his plans concerning this city ultimately. It is generally conceded that this company has schemes now in process of evolution which will mean immeasurable benefit to this community and to the

cotton mills of piedmont Carolina. "President Winder heads a \$30,000,000 concern which is developing the famous coal fields of West Virginia, owning a total of 285,000 acres. He is said to be expending of his own money \$2,500,000 in exploiting the product of these mines. He is, of course, vitally concerned with the construction of the splendid new railroad system through this district and blazing its way through the most mountainous region of North Carolina, to cost upon completion \$50,000,000. The Cumberland Corporation is said to hold the ownership of the road and also to control the properties of the Clinchfield Coal Corporation.

"For whatever else the visit of this capitalist to Charlotte may be intended it is believed that he is inspecting this territory with a view to locating the terminal inland docks for the product of his mines. It was published in this paper several weeks ago that Spartanburg and Charlotte were the only two cities being considered in which to place these docks, and it is not thought a thing unlikely that President Winder is looking over this city with such a purpose in view. These terminals will keep on supply all the time as much as 10,000 tons of coal, so as to distribute to consumers upon short notice.

"Heading toward Wilmington, it is further thought that President Winder is on an inspection tour of Southport as an Atlantic terminal for the product of his fine fields of coal in Virginia. In confirmation of such a belief the following report sent out from Bristol will be pertinent and altogether to the point.

"It is reported that George L. Carter, president of the above company, has acquired the charter of the North Carolina & Virginia Terminal Railroad company to build a line in eastern North Carolina, and having a water frontage of about a mile at Southport. This apparently confirms previous rumors that the South & Western would seek an outlet on the Atlantic at Southport via the Seaboard Air Line to a point near Wilmington and thence by a new line to the desired terminal."

President Winder did not arrive in the city yesterday and it is not known whether he will visit Wilmington and Southport at this time or not. The developments of the plans of the great corporation are being watched with interest in this section, which it is believed will be greatly benefited.

STEAMER AGROUND.

Fire Island, N. Y., March 31.—Picking her course to New York through a blanketing fog that screened the coast line beacons the steamship Carolina, of the Austro-American Steamship Company, with ten passengers and a general cargo from Trieste, Plesme, Venice and Orien, grounded tonight on the shelving sand bars off the point life-saving station, five miles east of here. No fears are felt for the safety of the vessel, as only a mild sea was running late tonight and the wind came in cupfuls from the northwest.

The Carolina lies in a easy position abreast of the life-saving station and there is no imminent danger. None of the passengers of the boat were landed by the life savers, who boarded the vessel.

The Carolina will likely be floated at the next high tide. Tugs will be sent from New York.

The Carolina is a new boat, having been built in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1905. She has a gross tonnage of 4,731 tons and is 359 feet long. The agents of the company in New York are Phelps Brothers and Company.

DISCHARGED NEGRO SOLDIERS.

Bills for Restoration to Army Deported in Committee.

Washington, March 31.—The five democratic members of the senate committee on military affairs today succeeded in defeating both the Warner and the Foraker bills for the restoration to duty of negro soldiers of 25th infantry who were discharged without honor because of the affray at Brownsville, Texas.

The success of the minority was accomplished by voting as a unit against the divided majority. The effect will be to cause both bills to be reported adversely.

The essential point of difference between the two bills is that the Warner measure provides that the president may reinstate any soldier upon growing satisfied that he is innocent of the charges against him; while the Foraker bill compels the reinstatement of such soldiers if they take oath of their innocence.

When the committee met today Senator Warner moved to report his bill favorably, whereupon Senator Foraker moved to substitute his bill. The latter motion was defeated, the five democrats, Messrs. Tallaferro, Foster, Overman, Frazier and McCready, joining with Messrs. Warren, Lodge, Warner and Dupont in opposing it. A vote was then taken on the Warner bill and it was voted down, the five democrats joining with Senators Scott, Foraker and Bulkeley in opposition.

INDIANA REPUBLICANS.

Indianapolis March 31.—Republican leaders met in conference tonight and decided definitely to recommend to the resolutions committee of the state republican convention tomorrow the following ideas for planks of the platform:

Local option with the county as the unit.

No interference with the present temperance laws.

Revision of tariff along protective lines by a special session of congress after the election.

Codifications of laws governing corporations.

Child labor legislation within limits.

Endorsing the candidacy of Charles W. Fairbanks for president.

Opposing contributions by corporations to campaign funds.

Banking regulation that will ensure confidence in the integrity of the banking system.

Progressive programme in labor legislation.

IMPLICATED IN BOMB THROWING

Alexander Berkman Held in \$5,000 Bail for Examination

Silverstein Dying From His Injuries. Comptroller Metz and Mayor McCellan Threatened With Death by Writer of Unsigned Letter.

New York, March 31.—Selig Silverstein, in whose hands the dynamite bomb prematurely exploded as he was preparing to throw it at the police during the Union Square demonstration last Saturday is dying tonight and the physicians at Bellevue hospital state that the bomb-thrower will not live twenty-four hours. Cerebral meningitis has developed from the fearful wounds made by a piece of the exploding missile and paralysis of the lower limbs is fast setting in. Silverstein is slightly delirious tonight and there is little likelihood that the coroner will succeed in obtaining any statement from the man.

Further evidence has been unearthed by the police in connection with the bomb-throwing which is of such important nature that when Alexander Berkman, treasurer of the anarchists federation union, was arraigned in court today on an affidavit charging him with advising the Union Square meeting Detective Lieutenant Werszansky told Magistrate Drogo that he would not divulge the evidence to the court at the present time. The magistrate held Berkman in \$500 bail for examination on Friday afternoon. Bail was furnished.

Berkman before his arraignment said: "I don't believe that Silverstein threw that bomb. The police are trying to fasten the crime on him, believing that he will not recover sufficiently to be able to refute what they say. There was no anarchist plot in the bomb-throwing. If there was the police will never find it out. They are manufacturing evidence to satisfy the public mind and are distorting facts and conditions."

Of the six arrested after the throwing of the bomb on Saturday, four were discharged in court today. Walter U. Pitt was held to await the action of the immigration authorities and George Robinson was remanded to the coroner.

Late today Comptroller Metz received an unsigned letter in which the writer declared that Saturday's bomb-throwing "demonstrates the commencement of battle between the city officials and the unemployed," and that unless Mayor McCellan and the comptroller provide money for new subways so that there will be work to be done they will suffer death.

CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.

Bills of Minor Importance Passed by Senate—House Engaged on Agricultural Appropriation Bill.

Washington, March 31.—Nearly the entire session of the senate today was consumed in consideration of a bill to permit the building of a dam on the Snake river, Washington, and an adjournment was only reached after Mr. Heyburn, of Idaho, announced that he would not permit a vote to be taken today. During the discussion of the bill Senator Teller took occasion to make a speech in disapprobation of executive encroachment.

Several bills of minor importance were passed. At 4:30 p. m. the senate adjourned.

Washington, March 31.—After having undergone many changes the paragraph of the agricultural appropriation bill relating to the bureau of forestry was finally passed by the house of representatives today. Messrs. Mondell, of Wyoming, and Smith, of California, continued their attacks on the bureau and in this they were supported by Messrs. Bonyne, of Colorado, and Cushman, of Washington. These embraced charges that the bureau had created timber monopolies in favor of large corporations, illegally assumed jurisdiction over water rights belonging to the western states, and juggled with figures in order to obtain large appropriation from congress. The work of the bureau was vigorously defended by Messrs. Hepburn, of Iowa, and Scott, of Kansas.

Considerable time was devoted to discussing the proposition by Mr. Humphreys, of Mississippi, to increase the appropriation for the investigation of soils, which was carried.

A little less than one-half of the bill had been completed when the house at 5:00 p. m. adjourned.

PROHIBITION IN THE EAST.

New Hanover and Rowan Counties to Be Real Battle Grounds.

Raleigh, N. C., March 31.—State Chairman Oats, of the Anti-Saloon League, has returned from the east. He says he made two speeches in the country, one place twenty miles from a railway, and tested the sentiment of his audiences by calling on voters who are prohibition to stand up. At one place 200 and at another 250 stood, none failing to do so. He says New Hanover and Rowan are the real battle grounds for both sides, but that the anti-saloon organization is being made as strong in known prohibition counties as in these. The speeches of Aycock and Pritchard are to be printed in pamphlet form and given an immense circulation.

REAR-ADMIRAL EVANS.

Will Reach San Diego Today on Board the Connecticut.

San Diego, Cal., March 31.—Information that Rear-Admiral Evans, en route to the Hot Springs at San Luis Obispo, Cal., will arrive in San Diego late tomorrow on board the flagship, the Connecticut, was received here by wireless today. The admiral will be transferred upon the arrival of the battleship at San Diego Beach to a launch and will stay up the bay. A private car has been sent here and placed at his disposal.